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# THE ST. LOUIS REPUBLIC.

NINETY-SEVENTH YEAR.

MONDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 20, 1905.

PRICE

In St. Louis, One Cent.  
Outside St. Louis, Two Cents.  
On Trains, Three Cents.

## SEE WEDNESDAY'S REPUBLIC FOR MERCHANTS' MIDWEEK ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SAYS EQUITABLE ROW WAS SCHEME TO RAID SURPLUS

Insurance Commissioner Host  
of Wisconsin Declares His  
Belief "Drawn Battle"  
Was Trumped Up.

### TO SCARE POLICY HOLDERS.

Asserts That Alexander, Hyde  
and Other Big Stockholders  
Planned to Profit Greatly  
by Consequent Lapses.

### "INDEMNIFICATION" OPPOSED.

Is Assured of Assistance From  
Insurance Departments of  
Other States in Fight on  
Proposed "Divvy."

PEPPIHILL SPECIAL.  
Madison, Wis., Feb. 19.—Commissioner  
Zeno M. Host of the Wisconsin Insurance  
Department says that for the directors  
of the Equitable Life Assurance Society  
to attempt to "indemnify the stockholders"  
is a scheme to raid the surplus of  
\$2,000,000 which rightfully belongs to the  
policy holders, and for the division of the  
Wisconsin portion of which there is pending  
a case before the Supreme Court of  
this State.

Commissioner Host suggests that the direc-  
tors are fearful that the Supreme Court  
will uphold the decision of the trial court  
and require the surplus to be divided  
among the policy holders and that in order  
to dissipate this vast accumulated  
surplus, the directors now propose to  
"divvy" the money under cover of a  
scheme labeled a "plan" for the indemnification  
of stockholders.

Any action on the part of the directors  
which involves the dissipation of the  
money which the Wisconsin Commissioner  
says belongs to the policy holders will be strenuously resisted in this State, and  
Commissioner Host says he will take steps  
to secure the cooperation in this fight of  
the insurance departments of other States.  
He says he is assured already of assistance  
in Eastern States, and while he refuses  
to say how much is understood that  
he has informed among others, Massachusetts  
and Pennsylvania.

RELIEVES "DRAWN BATTLE."  
WAS PREARRANGED BY PRINCIPALS.  
Commissioner Host, in an interview for  
the Republic to-night, said that in his  
opinion the recent "drawn battle" between  
the Hyde and Alexander factions was  
strategic and feigned for the purpose of  
frustrating policyholders to base and  
thereby multiply the accumulated surplus  
of \$2,000,000.

He refers to the two resolutions passed  
by the directors in New York Thursday  
afternoon as "ingenious." The first pro-  
poses that the policyholders be allowed to  
vote for stockholders, and the second provides  
a committee to formulate a plan for the  
execution of this step and for the  
indemnification of the stockholders.  
Commissioner Host says the Equitable  
stock is worth \$100 at par that the  
company received that sum for it in the  
first place, but that the present owners  
of the stock paid from \$100 to \$1000 per  
share for it. He says in the indemnification  
of stockholders' plan is a scheme to  
those people to foot the surplus of the  
company which he says is accumulated  
through payments made by policyholders  
and which he claims, the policyholders  
shall be distributed among the policy  
holders.

Host has been fighting for the enforcement  
of the Wisconsin statute interpreted  
to him to provide for distribution of the  
surplus among the policyholders, not less  
frequently than once in five years. The  
fight so far has gone against the company  
and is now before the Supreme Court, a  
decision is expected Tuesday.

"One could hardly believe," says Commissioner Host, "that the officers of the  
company would intentionally bring about  
the controversy that exists among the  
policyholders and causing them to take up  
and thus by foreclosing and frustrating  
give the company that enormous surplus  
accumulation."

STRICTLY VIGOROUS PROTEST  
FROM THE POLICY HOLDERS.  
If an attempt is made to indemnify the  
stockholders out of the surplus funds, the  
overpayments of their policyholders there will be a stronger protest from the  
executives of the insurance departments of  
the several States in which the company  
is transacting business than there was in 1888, when the Prudential Insurance  
Company of America proposed taking \$100  
of its surplus accumulations belonging  
to its policyholders and declaring a stock  
dividend, thereby increasing the capital  
stock of that company from \$2,000,000  
to \$2,000,000.

The charter of the Equitable Life Assur-  
ance Society provides that the capital  
of the company shall be \$100,000,000, divided  
into one thousand shares of \$100 each, the  
holders of stock to receive a semiannual  
dividend not to exceed 5 per cent.

"According to the charter, there cannot  
be a further indemnification of stock-  
holders, and if an attempt is made by the  
officers to indemnify the stockholders  
any further than is provided for in the  
charter by using the surplus funds of the  
company, rightfully belonging to their  
policyholders, the policyholders should  
proceed in court and secure an injunction  
restraining the officers from carrying out

### SUMMARY OF The St. Louis Republic Monday, February 20, 1905.

#### THE WEATHER.

FORECAST.	6 a.m.—25°
St. Louis and Vicinity.	Fair and warmer to-day; fair to-morrow. For Missouri—Fair and warmer to-day; fair to-morrow.
Yesterday's Conditions.	The thermometer yesterday never registered temperatures below 25°, except above the freezing point, while the minimum temperature was 24°. The highest point was 34° degrees at 5 p.m. The weather was very cold all day, with very light snow fluctuating. The wind was moderate, but attained its greatest velocity, 30 miles an hour, in the evening. The temperature was an inch and the humidity was 85 per cent.
Today's Forecast.	Indiana and Illinois—Fair in north and south portions to-day; to-morrow fair and warmer; fresh southwest winds.
Eastern Texas.	Fair to-day and to-morrow; warmer to-day; fresh north winds, becoming variable.
Arkansas, Oklahoma, Indian Territory, and Western Texas.	Fair to-day and to-morrow; warmer to-morrow.
Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas.	Fair and warm to-day; to-morrow fair.
Missouri.	The sun rises this morning at 6:46 and sets this afternoon at 5:42. The moon rises at 7:56.

The Republic's "Want" Ads  
Will Be Found on  
Page 10.

#### FEATURES OF TO-DAY'S NEWS.

- 1. Equitable Insurance Fight—Wells to Run for Mayor.
- 2. Russian Royal Family Hides.
- 3. Fire Threatens Indianapolis.
- 4. Bridal Clothes for Death Watch.
- 5. War Against Standard Oil.
- 6. Pioneer Planner Dead.
- 7. Oil Fight in Kansas.
- 8. Man Run Over Saves Dogs.
- 9. Billposters Fight.

#### WASHINGTON.

Congressman Campbell of Kansas, who introduced the resolution to investigate the Standard Oil Company, has quickly attained national fame, and is already mentioned for Senator to succeed Burton.

#### PAGE 4.

The impression prevails in official circles there will be no compromise in the Senate fight that it must be the House bill, providing for two States, or none.

#### PAGE 4.

President Roosevelt hopes to get a big bag of game when he goes hunting mountain lion in Colorado. For this reason he will limit his party to two or three friends and guides.

#### PAGE 42.

WICHITA FALLS.

Timothy H. Edgerton, one of the pioneer founders of St. Louis, died yesterday, 81 years old.

#### PAGE 4.

When he was riding rear, owing to a derangement of the train, Leonard Nugent, a Terminal brakeman, was hurled into the air, falling upon a warehouse roof, after turning a somersault, and escaping injury.

#### PAGE 4.

Theater billposters spent the night in a motor car, tearing down each other's posters at Eighth and Olive streets.

#### PAGE 42.

Brilliant party of Joseph Sorochek at his marriage three weeks ago were wedding grooms at Lithuania King's deathwatch.

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#### PAGE 4.

Atmosphere of the Revolution, bound the atmosphere of Washington's birth, Bishop Turtl and the Revived Doctor J. H. Doremus continuing services.

#### PAGE 4.

Railroad men presented a heavy immigration movement to the South and Southwest this year.

Two men were waylaying in motels in Hollister. The bandits took a watch and \$40 from John E. Allen, a druggist, and \$90 from Victor Chang, a coat maker.

#### PAGE 4.

A crowd of Russian sympathizers meeting in the streets of New York are discussed by police reserves and arrested.

#### PAGE 4.

Texas prepares to enter the fight on Standard oil and threatens to enact State measure. Rumors prevail that Texas will also enact restrictive laws.

#### PAGE 4.

Kansas prepares for decisive struggle with Standard Oil and the Legislature passes restrictive measures as rapidly as they are introduced.

#### PAGE 4.

Albert H. Goldsmith, machinist for Barnes-Caldwell, Harrison, escaped death in an accident at New Orleans in which the machine, "Blue Streak," is demolished.

#### PAGE 42.

Thousands of head of cattle were killed in Texas by the recent blizzards, and 25 per cent of living cattle will perish unless there is an early spring.

#### PAGE 4.

SPORT NEWS.

Horses at Kentucky breeding farms are said to be behind in their work. PAGES 4.

#### PAGE 4.

Moving of ocean vessels.

#### PAGE 4.

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#### PAGE 4.

When Mr. and Mrs. William Voss of No. 115 Lake Avenue, East St. Louis, returned home last evening after visiting friends they found their bed in flames.

The couple arrived in time to extinguish the fire before any further damage resulted. They were compelled to spend the night on a cot.

The couple live in a one-and-a-half-story cottage. When they left the house after supper to go to a neighbor's residence the lamp was left burning on the table.

On their return, several hours later, they were surprised to find the room on fire. The Fire Department was called and the blaze was soon extinguished. The damage to the furniture is estimated at \$100 to \$125.

The bed is supposed to have caught fire by the explosion of the lamp.

### DON BRIDAL CLOTHES FOR DEATH WATCH

Bridesmaids and Best Men at  
Sorochek Wedding, Three Weeks  
Ago, Form Death Party.

### KING'S BODY LIES IN STATE.

Men Who Broke China Plates  
With Silver Dollars to Dance  
With Bride Now Shred  
Tears.

The bridal party of three weeks ago that nearly threw silver dollars at china plates to win a dance with the smiling bride of Joseph Sorochek, the dead King of Little Lithuania, was transformed Saturday night into a death watch, rendered doubly impressive by the fact that the watchers wore the gleaming silk dresses that served at the wedding.

Yesterday afternoon they attended the funeral in the same garment.

The body of the East St. Louis leaper lay in state all night in the little room in which he was married, while his closest friends paid homage to him even in death.

No voice has been raised in the city, "The King is dead, long live the King!" for no other, it is said, can quite take the place of this unique sovereign. The bride and her maids, the best men and ushers, donned the attire in which they appeared for a far different purpose a short time ago, and made of the dead watch a ceremony as impressive as any ever seen in East St. Louis.

Hundreds visited the house at No. 43 Collinsville avenue, and were touched by the simple grief of the mourners. When the marriage took place the men present threw dollars at plates. If they broke one they danced with the bride, but they did not care whether they hit the mark or not, for all the money went for a dowry for their beloved king's bride.

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